

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical cable to be installed on land, comprising:
a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light
wavelength; and
a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same
wavelength;

wherein:

said first and second optical fibers have been connected by fusion splicing at a joint
being accommodated in said optical cable;

the optical cable accommodates at least two optical fiber lines; and

there is a first optical fiber and second optical fiber at both ends of the optical cable.

2. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 1, wherein said signal light
wavelength is 1.55 μm.

3. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, having a length which is
not less than 1 km but not more than 10 km.

4. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, wherein the ratio of the
effective area of said first optical fiber to that of said second optical fiber is not more than
0.5 or not less than 2.0.

5. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, wherein the distance
between said joint and an adjacent end of said optical cable is not less than 100 m.

6. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, wherein the absolute chromatic dispersion value of each of said first and second optical fibers is not less than 10 ps/nm/km at said signal light wavelength.

7. (Previously presented) An optical cable according to claim 2, wherein said joint has been subjected to heat treatment and re-coated subsequent to said fusion-splicing.

8. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, wherein the splicing loss at said joint is not more than 0.3 dB.

9. (Original) An optical cable according to Claim 2, wherein each of said first and second optical fibers is provided with information for identifying each type of optical fiber.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of installing an optical cable, comprising the steps of:

preparing a first optical cable having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, said first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said first optical cable;

preparing a second optical cable accommodating a third optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at said signal light wavelength and a fourth optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength;
installing said first and second optical cables on land; and
jointing said first and second optical cables in such a way that the first optical fiber and third optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing or and the second optical fiber and fourth optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of installing an optical cable, comprising the steps of:

preparing a first and second optical cables each having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, each ~~said~~-respective pair of first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said respective optical cables;

installing said first and second optical cables on land; and
jointing said first and second optical cables in such a way that the first optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing or and the second optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical transmission line, comprising:
a first optical cable having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic

dispersion at the same wavelength, said first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said first optical cable;

a second optical cable accommodating a third optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at said signal light wavelength and a fourth optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength;

said first and second optical cables being installed on land and jointed together in such a way that the first optical fiber and third optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing or and the second optical fiber and fourth optical fiber are connected together by fusion splicing.

13. (Currently Amended) An optical transmission line, comprising:
a first and second optical cables, each having a first optical fiber having a positive chromatic dispersion at a signal light wavelength and a second optical fiber having a negative chromatic dispersion at the same wavelength, each ~~said~~-respective pair of first and second optical fibers having been connected by fusion splicing to form a joint being accommodated in said respective first and second optical cables;

said first and second optical cables being installed on land and jointed together in such a way that the first optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing or and the second optical fibers from each said optical cable are connected together by fusion splicing.